(c) and (d) The Prasar Bharati has taken many major steps for improving its financial position and it is improving gradually. However it is not possible for Prasar Bharati to attain financial independence in the near future and a substantial part of its budget is being funded by the Government. New avenues for resource mobilization are being vigorously pursued.

Proposal for Media Commission

528. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered a proposal to set up a Media Commission;

(b) if so, whether a Group of Ministers has been set up to examine the proposal to revive the existing up-linking policy;

(c) whether at present there are 14 free to air private channels on Doordarshan;

(d) if so, by when the Group of Ministers is likely to submit its recommendations; and

(e) by when Government are likely to set up the Media Commission?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) The proposal and its various aspects are under examination.

(b) The Government, on 5.7.2005, constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to examine the proposal for Review of Uplinking Policy and to finalize its recommendations.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The GoM has since furnished its recommendations, which were approved by Union Cabinet on 20.10.2005.

(e) As stated in reply to part (a) above.